

RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION (RSF) 6

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES RECOVERY

LEAD AGENCY:

- N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES)

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

- N.H. Department of Cultural Resources (Cultural Resources)
- N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED)
- N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)
- N.H. Department of Administrative Services
- N.H. Department of Transportation (NHDOT)
- N.H. Office of Energy and Planning (OEP)
- N.H. Fish & Game Department (Fish and Game)
- N.H. Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (Agriculture)

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of RSF 6 – Natural and Cultural Resources is to integrate assets and capabilities to help affected communities address long-term environmental and cultural resource recovery needs after large-scale and catastrophic incidents.

Scope

The core recovery capability for natural and cultural resources is the ability to protect natural and cultural resources and historic properties through appropriate pre-disaster actions and response and recovery actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore these resources consistent with post-disaster community priorities and in compliance with appropriate environmental and cultural resources laws. The Natural and Cultural Resources RSF coordinates departments and agencies working together to provide information and assistance to communities seeking to pre-identify, preserve, protect, conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore natural and cultural resources during recovery.

Relevant agencies and partners are those with expertise and programs including, but not limited to, specific natural and cultural resource issue identification; assessment and management (e.g., fish and wildlife, historic and traditional cultural properties, hydrology); natural and cultural resource planning; environmental planning and historic preservation compliance under federal laws and *Executive Orders* (specific to programs that provide funding for disaster recovery); and community sustainability.

Objectives

- Considerations related to the management and protection of natural and cultural resources and historic properties resources, community sustainability, and compliance with environmental planning and historic preservation requirements are integrated into recovery.

- Local communities, states, and tribal governments are ready to address post-disaster natural and cultural resource recovery needs.
- Programs to support disaster recovery, coordination of technical assistance, and capabilities and data sharing are coordinated.
- Natural and cultural assessments and studies needed post-disaster, including proposed solutions to environmental and historic preservation policy and process impediments, are developed.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Department of Environmental Services (DES)

Pre-Disaster

- Support HSEM to identify representatives for the Long-Term Recovery Committee (Recovery Committee) from across the community including government, NGOs, private sector, and tribes, for the purpose of guiding the recovery process and establishing leadership and coordination. This may include, but is not limited to inclusion of:
 - Regional Planning Commissions
 - Local American Institute of Architects
 - N.H. Municipal Association
 - Heritage and Historic District Commissions
 - N.H. Preservation Alliance
 - Tribes
- Collect, store, and protect data concerning cultural and natural resources (federally, State, and locally owned and maintained). Understand what data FEMA, State, and private sector relief programs will require to obtain recovery assistance.
- With DRED and Cultural Resources, develop a pre-disaster Natural and Cultural Resources recovery strategy for State-owned resources to identify and communicate priority actions. Coordinate with HSEM and Administrative Services to develop a list of State priority post-disaster recovery projects, including mitigation projects. Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Coast Guard as it relates to federally and jointly owned and maintained assets.
- With DRED and Cultural Resources, develop a template for local cultural and natural resources recovery planning efforts.
- Work with Administrative Services to properly procure through a full, fair, and open competitive process stand-by contracts with disaster recovery contractors, if needed.
- Review existing policies and procedures for departmental budget expenditures and project approvals and develop proposed procedures to expedite process post-disaster.
- Coordinate with HSEM, DRED, and Cultural Resources to work with private nonprofits and other NGOs to leverage opportunities to encourage local, state, and tribal governments and institutions to develop emergency management plans that integrate natural and cultural resource issues.
- With the support of local communities, HSEM, and other State partners, integrate natural and cultural resources related mitigation, recovery, and other pre-disaster plans and activities into existing local State, and tribal community-wide planning and development activities.
- Promote the principles of sustainable and disaster resistant communities through the protection of natural resources such as coastal barriers and zones, floodplains, wetlands, and other natural resources critical to risk reduction.

Post-Disaster

- Maintain robust and accessible communications throughout the recovery process among State, federal, and local governments, and all other partners, to ensure ongoing dialogue and information sharing.
- Work with NHDOT, Administrative Services, DRED, Cultural Resources, HSEM, and contractors to conduct cultural and natural resource damage and needs assessments.
- With DRED and Cultural Resources, develop an event-specific Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Action Plan.
- Work with RSF partners to leverage available financial and technical assistance, both from governmental and nongovernmental sources, in the execution of the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Action Plan.
- Coordinate cross-jurisdictional or multistate and/or regional natural and cultural resource issues to ensure consistency of federal support where needed.
- With DRED and HSEM, provide public information related to cultural and natural resources recovery.

Department of Cultural Resources (Cultural Resources)

Pre-Disaster

- With DRED and DES, develop a pre-disaster Natural and Cultural Resources recovery strategy for State-owned resources to identify and communicate priority actions. Coordinate with HSEM and Administrative Services to develop a list of State priority post-disaster recovery projects, including mitigation projects. Coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Coast Guard as it relates to federally and jointly owned and maintained assets.
- With DRED and DES, develop a template for local cultural and natural resources recovery planning efforts.
- Work with HSEM to expand the State Damage Assessment Plan to include historical/cultural resources.
- Collect, store, and protect data concerning cultural and natural resources (federally, State, and locally owned and maintained). Understand what data FEMA, State, and private sector relief programs will require to obtain recovery assistance.

Post-Disaster

- Conduct natural resource damage and needs assessments.
- With DRED and DES, develop an event-specific Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Action Plan.
- Work with RSF partners to leverage available financial and technical assistance, both from governmental and nongovernmental sources, in the execution of the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Action Plan.
- Coordinate cross-jurisdictional or multistate and/or regional natural and cultural resource issues to ensure consistency of federal support where needed.
- With DRED, DES, and HSEM, provide public information related to cultural and natural resources recovery.

Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED)

Pre-Disaster

- Help DES and Cultural Resources collect, store, and protect data concerning cultural and natural resources.
- With DES and Cultural Resources, develop a pre-disaster Natural and Cultural Resources recovery strategy for State-owned resources to identify and communicate priority actions.
- With DES and Cultural Resources, develop a template for local cultural and natural resources recovery planning efforts.
- Develop a list of state responsible priority post-disaster recovery projects including mitigation projects.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

Pre-Disaster

- Identify representatives for the Long-Term Recovery Committee from across the community including, government, NGOs, and private sector for the purpose of guiding the recovery process and establishing leadership and coordination.
- Coordinate with DES, Cultural Resources, Administrative Services, and DRED to develop a list of State priority post-disaster recovery projects including mitigation projects.
- Support DES, through Administrative Services, in properly procuring through a full, fair, and open competitive process stand-by contracts with disaster recovery contractors, if needed.
- Assist DES in the review of existing policies and procedures for budget expenditures and project approvals and develop proposed procedures to expedite process post-disaster.
- Coordinate with DES and work with private nonprofits and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to leverage opportunities to encourage local, State, and Tribal governments and institutions to develop emergency management plans that integrate natural and cultural resource issues.
- Work with Cultural Resources to expand State Damage Assessment Plan to include historical/cultural resources.
- Coordinate educational and cross-training opportunities for key participants in cultural and natural resources recovery. Create, encourage, and participate in disaster recovery exercises to enhance skills and develop needed techniques.

Post-Disaster

- With Cultural Resources, DRED, and RSF partners, conduct cultural and natural resource damage and needs assessments.
- Identify potential recovery projects and begin data collection and application processes.
- With Cultural Resources, DES, and DRED, provide public information related to cultural and natural resources recovery.
- Establish mechanisms for tracking recovery progress.
- Capture after-action recommendations and lessons learned.

Department of Administrative Services

Pre-Disaster

- Support Cultural Resources and DRED in the development of a pre-disaster Natural and Cultural Resources recovery strategy for state-specific resources.
- With Cultural Resources, DES, and DRED, develop a list of State priority post-disaster recovery projects, including mitigation projects.
- In coordination with *Emergency Support Function (ESF) #7 – Resource Support*, identify and establish agreements with recovery contractors that may be needed to support natural and cultural resources recovery. Coordinate with Cultural Resources and DRED to properly procure through a full, fair, and open competitive process stand-by contracts with disaster recovery contractors, if needed.
- Support Cultural Resources and DRED in reviewing existing policies and procedures for budget expenditures and project approvals and develop proposed procedures to expedite process post-disaster.

Post-Disaster

- With DES, Cultural Resources, DRED, and HSEM, review and implement new post-disaster budget and project approval processes. Issue order(s) as appropriate, to implement changes to rules and regulations for post-disaster recovery. This should include the implementation of disaster specific budget systems and codes that will make it easy to track disaster related expenditures and increase reimbursement.

Department of Transportation (NHDOT)

Pre-Disaster

- Through the Cultural Resources Manager, support DES and Cultural Resources in collecting data concerning cultural and natural resources.

Post-Disaster

- Assist DES to maintain robust and accessible communications throughout the recovery process among state, Federal, and local governments, and all other partners, to ensure ongoing dialogue and information sharing.
- Conduct cultural and natural resource damage and needs assessments of NHDOT assets.

Office of Energy and Planning (OEP)

Pre-Disaster

- With the support of local communities, HSEM, and other State partners, integrate natural and cultural resources related mitigation, recovery, and other pre-disaster plans and activities into existing local, State, and tribal community-wide planning and development activities.

DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Development, maintenance, and implementation of this RSF will be as outlined in the base Recovery Plan.

AUTHORITIES

Refer to Authorities listed in Chapter 1 of the base Recovery Plan.

REFERENCES

In addition to those listed in the base Recovery Plan, the following references are pertinent this RSF Annex.

- TBD